

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows (the changes are shown with strikethrough for deleted matter and underlining for added matter). A complete listing of the claims are listed below with proper claim identifiers.

1. (Original) A method for stabilizing reduced coenzyme Q10

which comprises obtaining a composition by admixing reduced coenzyme Q10 with a fat and oil (excluding olive oil) and/or a polyol as the main component in which the stabilization of reduced coenzyme Q10 is not substantially inhibited and thereby protecting reduced coenzyme Q10 against oxidation.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1,

wherein the fat and oil comprises at least one fat and oil selected from among coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil, linseed oil, camellia oil, brown rice germ oil, avocado oil, rapeseed oil, rice oil, peanut oil, corn oil, wheat germ oil, soybean oil, perilla oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower seed oil, kapok oil, evening primrose oil, shea butter, sal fat, cacao butter, sesame oil, safflower oil, lard, milk fat, fish oil, and beef tallow, modified fat and oil derived from these by fractionation, hydrogenation, transesterification or the like, medium-chain fatty acid triglycerides, fatty acid partial glycerides, and phospholipids.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,
wherein the fat and oil/(fat and oil + polyol) weight ratio is not lower than 1/10.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~Claim 1,
wherein the content of reduced coenzyme Q10 in the composition is higher than 5% by weight.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 11~~Claim 1,
wherein the percent retention of reduced coenzyme Q10 after 3 days storage in the air at 40°C under a light-shielded condition is not lower than 95%, with the percent retention in the corresponding composition composed of reduced coenzyme Q10, the fat and oil and/or polyol alone after storage under the same conditions being taken as 100%.

13. (Original) A composition
which comprises reduced coenzyme Q10, a fat and oil (exclusive of olive oil) and/or a polyol and in which the stabilization of reduced coenzyme Q10 is not substantially inhibited.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~Claim 13 or 14~~Claim 13,
wherein the polyol comprises at least one polyol selected from among glycerol, propylene glycol and polyethylene glycol.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 16~~Claim 13,

wherein the content of vitamin E, when the same is further contained in the composition, is lower than 4% by weight based on the system excluding coenzyme Q10.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 19~~Claim 13,

wherein the content of reduced coenzyme Q10 in the composition is higher than 5% by weight.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 27~~Claim 13,

wherein the percent retention of reduced coenzyme Q10 after 3 days storage in the air at 40°C under a light-shielded condition is not lower than 95%, with the percent

retention in the corresponding composition composed of reduced coenzyme Q10, the fat and oil and/or polyol alone after storage under the same conditions being taken as 100%.

29. (Original) A reduced coenzyme Q10-containing composition which comprises reduced coenzyme Q10, a polyglycerol fatty acid ester, and a fat and oil and/or a polyol.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) The composition according to Claim 29 or 30, wherein the polyol comprises at least one polyol selected from among glycerol, propylene glycol and polyethylene glycol.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 29 to 32~~Claim 29, wherein the content of the fat and oil and/or polyol in the composition is not lower than 50% by weight based on the system excluding coenzyme Q10.

34. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 29 to 33~~Claim 29 which further comprises an ascorbic acid.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~Claim 34 or 35~~Claim 34, wherein the content of the ascorbic acid is not higher than 30% by weight based on the system excluding reduced coenzyme Q10.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 34 to 38~~claim 34

which further comprises a surfactant other than polyglycerol fatty acid esters.

40. (Original) The composition according to Claim 39,
wherein the surfactant other than polyglycerol fatty acid esters is a Tween or Span species.

41. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~Claim 39 or 40~~Claim 39,

wherein the content of the surfactant other than polyglycerol fatty acid esters is not higher than 90 % by weight based on the system excluding coenzyme Q10.

42. (Canceled)

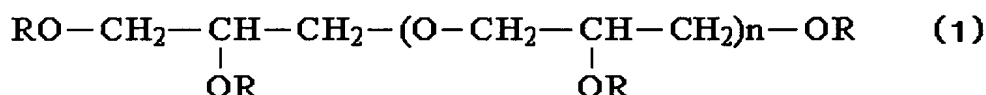
43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 29 to 45~~Claim 29,

wherein the polyglycerol fatty acid ester is represented by the following formula (1):



in the formula, n represents an integer of 1 to 29 and the four R's each independently represents a fatty acid residue containing 2 to 22 carbon atoms or a hydrogen atom, exclusive of the case where all R's are hydrogen atoms.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 29 to 48~~Claim 29,
wherein the polyglycerol fatty acid ester has an HLB value of 4 to 12.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 29 to 50~~Claim 29,
wherein the fatty acid residue or residues in the polyglycerol fatty acid ester each contains not less than 8 carbon atoms and the degree of polymerization of glycerol is not higher than 10.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Canceled)

54. (Canceled)

55. (Canceled)

56. (Canceled)

57. (Canceled)

58. (Canceled)

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 29 to 60~~Claim 29,

wherein the percent retention of reduced coenzyme Q10 after 3 days storage in the air at 40°C under a light-shielded condition is not lower than 70%, with the percent retention in the corresponding composition composed of reduced coenzyme Q10, the fat and oil and/or polyol alone after storage under the same conditions being taken as 100%.